

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 1

INTERLEAVE

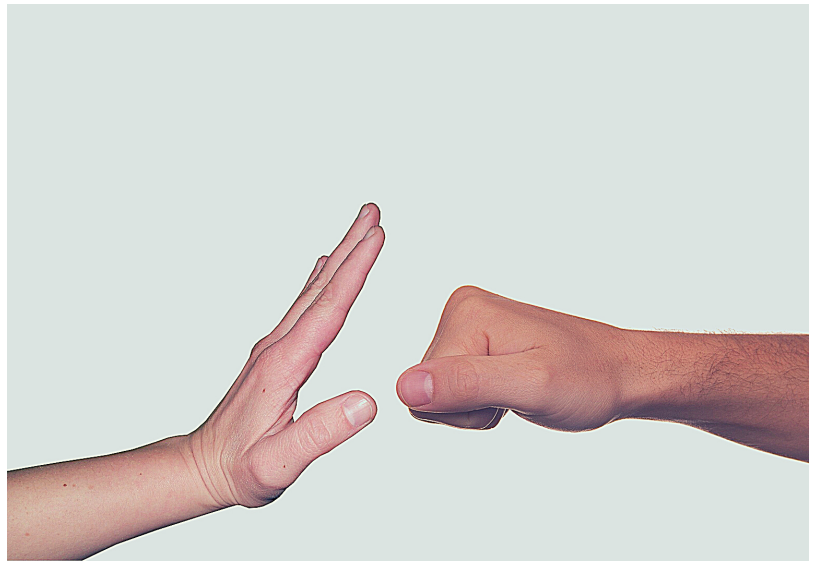
AN INTERVENTION TOOLKIT TO DEAL WITH WOMEN DRUG USERS
VICTIMS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Stop violence against
women drug users

MARCH 2021

THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED ARTICLES:

1. **Editorial**, by project coordinator
Paolo Stocco, Comunità di
Venezia p.1
2. **Meet the partners** p.3
3. **EU news** p.5



1.EDITORIAL

INTERvention tooLkit to deal with women drug users victims of gEndeR bAsed ViolEnce

AT STAKE

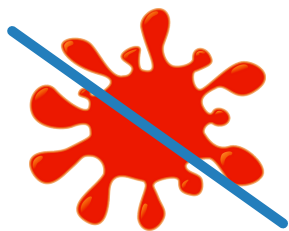
Stopping gender violence
against women drug users

Women make up approximately a quarter of all people with serious drug problems and around one-fifth of all entrants to drug treatment in Europe. Among them, **a high percentage are victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV).**

Despite the increasing efforts and initiatives at local and international level to tackle this problem, too little is still being done to provide **effective prevention and protection** to reduce the vulnerability of women.



This project is funded by
the European Union



Producing a toolkit of intervention to support women drug users

The project will aim at producing a toolkit of intervention that will be first tested in the countries participating in the Project, meant to support the regional, local, civil society authorities and organisations by reinforcing:

- their advocacy function;
- their capacity to make a difference at the local level;
- their best practice sharing methods.

Each participating country will then train professionals from civil society on how to apply the protocol as part of their daily practice.

The overall objectives of the projects are:

- 1.contributing to the implementation of coordinated and coherent efforts across the different countries
- 2.improving knowledge and awareness about gender-based violence

9 organizations/authorities from 7 Member States: Italy, Portugal, Spain, Croatia, Germany, Austria, Belgium are joining their efforts in this project.

PAOLO STOCCO is President and General Director of “Comunità di Venezia s.c.s.”. He is in charge of programming, monitoring, and coordinating the therapeutic communities managed by the cooperative and accredited by the Veneto Region.

European and Local Project Manager and Researcher, he coordinates the working group on cross-border mobility and services qualitative evaluation provided by Rete Nazionale Grandi Ospedali of FederSanità (ANCI, National Association of Italian Municipalities). He was previously appointed by the Ministry of Health as member of the Coordination Group of PROMIS “Mattone Internazionale Salute” project promoting health in Europe and in the world. Furthermore he had an experience as General Director of the Local Health Unit from “Veneto Orientale”.Concerning publications, let's stress his involvement in the evaluation and methodology of the European study “Democracy Cities and Drugs”.



2.MEET THE PARTNERS



Comunità di Venezia: ComuVe is a social-services cooperative that operates in the Venice area helping people recover from addictions through both therapy facilities dedicated to assistance, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug or alcohol addicts, and through research and training activities. Comunità di Venezia hosts patients in two therapy communities: “Villa Renata”, located in Venezia, which offers intensive residential services for rehabilitation of men and women with addictions, and “Casa Aurora”, located in Mestre, which provides specialized residential services for rehabilitation of drug-addicted mothers with children.

Eu-Open: EU-OPEN is a company that provides consulting, planning, management and training activities on European institutions, in particular on the programs of the European Commission, to increase the competitiveness of Italian companies. The company was launched in 2013, bringing together the expertise of its partners and associates who have had over ten years professional experience thanks to the presence within European institutions and projects, the cultivation of international relations and the establishment of international reputation networks.



Therapieverbund Ludwigmuehle, Germany: Since the 1990s the Centre provides one of the five special services for drug addicted woman present in the Rhineland-Palatinate county. It cooperates in a regional network with many facilities like women’s shelters and Gender Based Violence- counselling services. The Center also educates various professional groups on prevention, and publishes informative and academic publications which seek to raise public awareness and promote prevention.



Therapiesalon im Wald, Austria: is a non-profit health organization in the field of prevention and residential treatment of psychosomatic diseases. The organization offers residential, ambulant treatment and counseling for persons with substance addiction problems in a wider framework of therapeutic measures for psychosomatic diseases. Therapiesalon im Wald is very active member of Euro TC - European Treatment Centers for Drug Addiction and Mental Health.



The Fundación Salud y Comunidad, Spain: is a non-profit organization based in Barcelona, engaged in actions at national and European level. It has a solid and broad experience in the promotion, design and management of services concerning several social-related issues. The FSyC has been leader in defining models of action in violence against women and drug addiction and their interactions. In the year 2000 a pioneer approach started which brought together the intervention in these two areas.





IREFREA, Portugal: IREFREA is an NGO established in Portugal since 1997 doing research in projects related to family and recreational contexts, involving European partners funded by the European Commission. Irefrea Portugal has been developing professional partnerships with national and European experts in the field of peer education, drug prevention and drug demand reduction. IREFREA Portugal integrates and cooperates with several national and international networks and organizations on prevention, and health promotion: IREFREA network, POMPIDOU Group, PEER, EURONET, UNDOC, ICPHR (International Collaboration on Participatory Health Research), EU-Society of Prevention and Research. Their main fields of activity are research, primary applied prevention, theoretical and scientific study of risk factors and evaluation.



Zajednica Susret, Croatia: is an humanitarian organization that has been operating in the Republic of Croatia for almost three decades now. Its core activity is prevention and out-of-hospital treatment of addiction to drugs, alcohol, gambling, and other forms of addiction. The activity of Zajednica Susret is based on the social program called “Projekt Čovjek” (Human Being Project) which places the focus first on an individual and only then on the problem at hand. The actions of the Organisation are aimed at strengthening positive attitudes toward marginalized groups, including the persons addicted to narcotic drugs, alcohol and gambling.



ENSA is a European network of Social Authorities, its aim is to promote international cooperation in the social field particularly in five subject areas of intervention each lead by a different Local Authority: elderly (Rotterdam), youth and Family (Veneto Region), child issues (Flanders), disability (Conseil Départemental du Val de Marne) and social inclusion transversal to all groups. The general coordination is led by the Veneto Region.



The Veneto Region's Brussels Office works jointly with the ENSA, European Network of Social Authorities in the INTERLEAVE project and is committed to support, disseminate and exploit the projects objectives, work and results with supporting tools such as a monthly bulletin and a weekly newsletter.



3.EU NEWS AND SELECTED LITERATURE BY THE INTERLEAVE CONSORTIUM

Focus on the INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - EU Commission actions and statement - Public EU Consultation on tackling violence against women

*“The past year was a difficult one. The **COVID-19** pandemic has spared nobody, and was **particularly challenging for women around the world.***

Gender equality must be at the heart of the post-pandemic recovery. The Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation provides that gender equality and equal opportunities for all should be taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation and implementation of national recovery and resilience plans. Women must also be better represented in leadership positions be it in politics or on companies' boards – we will continue to fight for it.

*Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing inequalities in our society. It put women at a **great risk, including at times in their own homes.** Later this year, the Commission will present a **new proposal to combat gender-based violence in the EU.** In our partner countries, the joint EU/UN Spotlight Initiative adapted priority actions on the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence to urgent needs” from the **European Commission's statement** ahead of International Women's Day.*

Tackling violence against women is a fundamental element of the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 of the EU, as well as of the **INTERLEAVE project**. The Commission is also working on a new legislative initiative to combat gender-based violence, and a public consultation deadline 10th May 2021 on the initiative was launched in February. Furthermore, in June 2020, the Commission adopted the first-ever EU victims' rights strategy, further stepping up its fight against gender-based violence.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890



3.EU NEWS AND SELECTED LITERATURE BY THE INTERLEAVE CONSORTIUM

Stop violence against women: Statement by the European Commission and the High Representative

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_20_2167

**Let's put an end to Violence against Women
by the European Commission**

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/aid_development_cooperation_fundamental_rights/factsheet_lets_put_an_end_to_violence_against_women_en.pdf

EMCDDA, your reference point on drugs in Europe

<https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/about>

Women who use drugs: Issues, needs, responses, challenges and implications for policy and practice

by European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/28072/1/EuropeanResponsesGuide2017_BackgroundPaper-Women-who-use-drugs.pdf

Improving the management of violence experienced by women who use psychoactive substances

by Council of Europe, Pompidou group, Governo italiano Dipartimento politiche antidroga

https://www.drogasgenero.info/wp-content/uploads/Women-Drugs-And-Violence_en.pdf

Women and barriers to harm reduction services: a literature review and initial findings from a qualitative study in Barcelona, Spain

By Harm Reduction Journal

<https://harmreductionjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12954-020-00429-5>

Addressing Violence and Overdose Among Women Who Use Drugs—Need for Structural Interventions

By JAMA Network

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/article-abstract/2771376>

WOMEN AND DRUGS Drug use, drug supply and their consequences

By UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

https://www.unodc.org/wdr2018/prelaunch/WDR18_Booklet_5_WOMEN.pdf

Greetings from the INTERLEAVE partnership!

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and soon on YouTube



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Thanking to IREFREA Fernando Joaquim